

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3668
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USLOSACLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5143

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PARM, PBOR, MILI, UR, SV, NO
SUBJ: NORWEGIAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET ROCKET FIRINGS

REF: OSLO 4014

1. IN SEPTEMBER 19 NAC, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR (BUSCH) GAVE A BRIEF REPORT ON GON REACTION TO SOVIET MISSILE TEST FIRINGS IN THE BARENTS SEA.

2. BUSCH REPORTED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 17 THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW POINTED OUT TO SOBOLEV, CHIEF OF THE MFA SCANDINAVIAN DESK, THAT STATES WHICH CLOSE OFF AREAS OF THE HIGH SEAS ARE OBLIGED TO CONSIDER FISHERIES AND SHIPPING RIGHTS OF OTHERS AS WELL AS COASTAL STATES' RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR MADE IT CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT NORWAY CONSIDERS AREA CLOSED BY SOVIETS TO BE LOCATED TO THE WEST, I.E., ON THE NORWEGIAN SIDE OF THE MID-LINE BETWEEN THE
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NORWEGIAN AND THE SOVIET CONTINENTAL SHELF.

3. NORWEGIANS ALSO EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD SHOW RESTRAINT IN AN AREA WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE

NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THEM. NORWAY THOUGHT SOVIETS SHARED THIS VIEW AND WAS SURPRISED WHEN THEY HAD CHOSEN AREA IN QUESTION FOR MISSILE TESTS. NORWAY ALSO POINTED TO NORWEGIAN FISHING AND SHIPPING RIGHTS IN AFFECTED AREA.

4. SOBOLEV SAID HE WOULD REPORT NORWEGIAN VIEWS TO HIS SUPERIORS BUT POINTED OUT THAT INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE PERMITTED CLOSING OFF OF HIGH SEAS AREAS FOR TESTING PURPOSES FOR A LIMITED TIME IF DUE NOTIFICATION IS GIVEN. MANY STATES HAD EXERCISED THIS RIGHT, INCLUDING NORWAY. FURTHERMORE, WHILE ADMITTING THAT CONTINENTAL SHELF DIVIDING LINE WOULD BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, AREA CONCERNED WAS CURRENTLY CONSIDERED OPEN SEA. IN ANY EVENT, TARGET AREA WAS QUITE RESTRICTED AND COVERED A DIAMETER OF ONLY 40 NAUTICAL MILES. THE SOVIETS HAD CLEARLY ANNOUNCED THE TEST PERIOD(SEPTEMBER 16-27) IN ADVANCE OF THE TESTS. WHILE ADMITTING NORWEGIAN FISHING AND SHIPPING ACTIVITIES IN AREA, SOBOLEV EMPHASIZED THAT SOVIETS RARELY TESTED MISSILES IN THIS AREA. AT CONCLUSION OF CONVERSATION, SOBOLEV STATED COASTAL STATES' SENSITIVITY TO SUCH TESTS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM UK PERMREP (PECK, BUSCH SAID SOVIETS HAD ANNOUNCED TEST FIRING ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE SO PROBLEM WAS NOT ONE OF INSUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE. IN RESPONDING TO NORWEGIAN DEMARCHE, SOVIETS DID NOT IMPLY THAT THEY WOULD CEASE MISSILE TEST SERIES. BRUCE

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